

South Carolina Internet Access Information

<u>Town/City</u>	<u>Internet service provider</u>	<u>Unknowns</u>
Abbeville	Local call, local telco provider	
Aiken	Local call	
Anderson	Local call	
Barnberg		Customer does not have Internet access but they think they could use a provider in Orangeburg (20 miles)
Barnwell	Local call	
Beaufort	Local call	
Bennetsville		Don't know
Bethune		Unable to contact customer
Bishopville		Don't know
Blacksburg		No answer at customer location
Blumenau		No customer phone information
Camden		Don't know
Central		No answer
Chapin		Don't know
Charleston	Local call	
Cheraw		No answer
Chester	Local call, local telco provider	
Clemson	Local call	
Clinton		
Clio		Left message, no customer call back
Columbia	Local call	
Conway	Local call, local telco provider	
Cowpens		Don't know
Dillon		Customer pays a flat fee each month through phone company in Florence but said they have no local number and no long distance charges
Dreer		Unable to contact customer
Duncan		No answer at customer location
Easley		No answer at customer location
Eastay		Left message, no call back
Elgin		Customer phone disconnected
Elloree		No answer at customer location
Florence	Local call	
Folly Beach		Left message, no call back
Fort Jackson	Local call (near Columbia)	
Fort Mill		Left message, no call back
Gaffrey	Local call	
Georgetown	Local call	
Gilbert		Unable to contact customer

2

<u>Town/City</u>	<u>Internet service provider</u>	<u>Unknowns</u>
Goose Creek	Local call	
Greenville	Local call	
Greenwood	Local call	
Greer	Local call	
Hampton		Compuserve, 1-800 number
Hanahan	Local call	
Hartsville	Local call	
Hilton Head	Local call	
Hodges		No customer phone information
Irmo	Local call	
Isle of Palms		Don't know
James Isl.		Don't know; Charleston Net?
Johns Isl.		No customer phone information
Kingstree		No local service
Ladson	Local call	
Lancaster	Local call	
Laurens		Don't know
Leesville		Long distance charges per minute
Lexington	Local call	
Liberty		No answer
Little River		No answer
Longs		No answer
Loris		Phone disconnected
Manning		Customer not available, out of office
Marion		Don't know
Mauldin		Incorrect phone information
McCormick		Incorrect phone information
Mt. Pleasant	Local call	
Murrells Inlet		Don't know
Myrtle Beach	Local call	
Newberry		No answer; hospital voicemail
N. Augusta	Local call	
N. Charleston	Local call	
Orangeburg	Local call	
Pawleys Is.		Unable to contact customer
Pendleton	Local call	
Pickens		Dr. has Internet access but staff knows nothing about it
Richburg	Local call	
Ridgeland		Nearest is Hilton Head

3

<u>Town/City</u>	<u>Internet service provider</u>	<u>Unknowns</u>
Rock Hill		Long distance call to Charlotte
Seneca	Local call	
Shaw AFB	Local call	
Simpsonville		No answer
Society Hill		Don't know
Spartanburg	Local call	
St. Helena Is.	Local call	
St. Johns Is.		No answer
Summerville		Phone disconnected
Sumter	Local call	
Surfside Bch.	Local call	
Travelers Rest		Customer not reachable
Trenton		Left message, no call back
Union		Non-working customer number
Varnville		No customer phone number
Wallace		Long distance, \$.06/min., cheaper than the 800 number provided by service
Walterboro		Don't know
Wando		No answer
Westminster		Staff knows that the Dr. is on the Internet but they don't know if it is a local call
Whitmire		Phone disconnected
Winnsboro	Local call	
Yemassee		Person who knows is out of office

MMS April 1997



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Communications
and Information
Washington, D.C. 20230

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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APR 24 1997
RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997
COMMUNICATIONS
DIVISION

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC
Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On May 8, the Commission intends to issue an order fulfilling the mandate of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act) to establish a new framework for ensuring that basic telephone service remains available and affordable for all Americans. That order will doubtless build on the recommendations by the Federal-State Joint Board, which are the fruit of close and conscientious collaboration between Federal and State regulators. As the Commission completes its review of the many comments on the Joint Board's recommendations and prepares its own decision, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) would like to reiterate and to reinforce its views on several of the principal issues under consideration.

1. Connecting Schools and Libraries

As the Commission is aware, NTIA strongly supports the basic tenets of the Joint Board's recommendations concerning the provision and funding of essential telecommunications services to our nation's schools and libraries. For example, we believe that the proposed level of support for schools and libraries -- \$2.25 billion -- is a reasonable estimate of the amount required annually to provide necessary services to those institutions, although the Commission and the Joint Board should reassess that level periodically to ensure that it is neither excessive nor inadequate.

We also strongly urge that the widest feasible range of providers should be entitled to receive money from the universal service fund if they furnish qualifying services to schools and libraries at discounted rates. Section 254(h)(2)(A) of the 1996 Act charges the Commission with establishing "competitively neutral rules" to enhance access by those entities to both "telecommunication and information services." Maximizing the number of eligible providers would likely increase the number of

potential suppliers to schools and libraries. Additional competition should, in turn, reduce the prices that those institutions must pay, as well as expand the range of services, particularly advanced telecommunications and information services, made available to them. Moreover, competition will ensure a more efficient use of the fund as prices are pushed downward.

Finally, the Commission should ensure that mechanisms are in place to implement the discount plan. Thus, for example, it should not only select a Fund Administrator, but it should clearly delineate the Administrator's duties (e.g., assessing and collecting contributions to the fund from carriers, disbursing funds to service providers, maintaining a database of services provided and rates charged to particular schools and libraries for use by others). The Commission should also, in NTIA's view, specify that Requests for Proposals (RFPs) should be the vehicles by which schools and libraries solicit and providers furnish qualifying telecommunications services.

* 2. Rural Health Care Clinics

The 1996 Act establishes the principle that rural health care providers are entitled to receive "telecommunications services which are necessary for the provision of health care services" at prices that "are reasonably comparable to rates charged for similar services in urban areas."^{1/} NTIA believes that the largest pricing disadvantage faced by rural health care providers are the distance and usage charges associated with many of the services they purchase. For example, the average annual charge for a T-1 circuit in rural areas is at least three times that in urban areas. Similarly, if a rural health care provider wishes to connect to an Internet Service Provider in order to access and retrieve medical information, the provider frequently must incur toll charges that an urban counterpart does not. For these reasons, NTIA recommends that the Commission take appropriate steps now to ensure that qualifying services provided to rural health care providers do not include distance-sensitive elements and that those providers do not have to pay toll charges to access the Internet.

3. Support to High Cost Areas

One of the most contentious aspects of the universal service debate concerns the amount of support needed to ensure affordable service for subscribers living in high cost areas, including rural areas. NTIA favors a strong high cost program and has endorsed the Joint Board's tentative recommendation to use so-called proxy models to quantify the amount of subsidies needed.

^{1/} 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(1)(A).

We understand, however, that there are legitimate questions about the ability of existing models to estimate accurately the costs of serving rural and other high cost areas. We endorse the adoption of an interim plan until such time as the new scheme is workable. Any such plan should hold steady the existing support for high cost areas, while minimizing the imposition of new assessments while further work is completed. We strongly urge the Commission to continue the Joint Board process and to work with stakeholders to improve on the existing proxy models to make them a suitable vehicle for calculating high cost support.

In addition, we urge the Commission and State regulators to coordinate their policies, particularly with regard to universal service and other interstate and intrastate pricing reforms, to ensure that the new Federal universal service regime is synchronized with the removal of implicit subsidies, thus prohibiting double recovery of costs.

4. Consumer Impacts

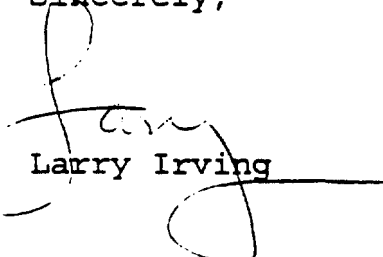
At the same time that the Commission issues its universal service order, other proceedings to implement the 1996 Act are pending on both the Federal and State levels. We believe that it is important to implement the various reforms necessitated by the Act in a manner that maximizes consumer benefits and avoids unreasonable rate shock.

The introduction of meaningful and effective competition into all segments of the telecommunication market will best provide consumers with the promises of the Act -- better choice in price and service. In this regard, we applaud the Commission and the State commissions for their vigilant efforts to implement the interconnection provisions of the Act. We appreciate the difficulty in predicting when the full effects of competition will be felt by a wide range of consumers and understand the need for transition mechanisms to move from a monopoly to a competitive market. At the same time, we urge the Commission to take immediate action to achieve a number of consumer benefits envisioned by the Act, such as affordable service to schools, libraries, and rural health care clinics, continued support for customers in high cost areas, and reductions in rates that consumers ultimately pay.

In this regard, the Commission apparently plans to complete its pending rulemaking to reform interstate access charges. A number of different plans have been offered for restructuring existing access charges, including comments filed by NTIA. In assessing these various proposals, and in crafting a new access charge plan, we urge the Commission to keep its eyes on the fundamental objective -- an access regime that garners for consumers the benefits of local and long distance competition, promotes efficient investment in the nation's telecommunications

infrastructure and, most importantly, protects customers from sharp and sudden rate increases. By so doing, the Commission will assure that its actions in the access charge proceeding will be compatible with the central purpose of universal service reform -- to make affordable basic telephone service available to all Americans.

Sincerely,



Larry Irving

cc: Commissioner James H. Quello
Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner Susan Ness



The American Telemedicine Association

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MAY 1 1997

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The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

re: CC Docket No. 96-45
Ex Parte Communications

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the American Telemedicine Association I want to provide these additional comments on the pending decision by the Federal Communications Commission implementing elements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 regarding access by rural health institutions to advanced communications.¹ These comments further clarify our earlier filings in this matter in three specific areas.²

Distance Charges

Congress declared that federal universal service support mechanisms should be used to help ensure that residents of rural areas receive adequate health services. The Act calls for advanced telecommunications access at rates comparable to urban areas. Providing access to high speed telecommunications lines, (1.544Mbs or higher), for rural health providers at rates that are comparable to urban areas requires the Commission to recognize and act on the rural distance penalty. Individuals and businesses in rural areas consistently pay more for many goods and services simply because they are located away from urban centers. The primary reason why high speed telecommunications lines are either not available or available at very high rates is the higher costs that accompany building the infrastructure out to more remote locations.

¹ Telecommunications Act of 1996. Sec. 254 (h)1(A)

² Comments Of ATA On The Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking And Order Establishing Joint Board, October 1996; And Comments Of ATA On The Recommended Universal Service Decision By The Joint Board, December 1996.

We strongly believe that the Commission must include provisions offsetting this distance penalty through eliminating distance-based charges for accessing telecommunications for eligible rural health providers. Establishing "reasonably comparable rates," as stated in the Act, requires the Commission to establish a mechanism to make these services available at rates that are distance insensitive. Allowing carriers to charge distance rates to eligible health providers would negate the intent of Congress and would continue to make access to health services unattainable for rural America.

Access to the Internet

In both our earlier filings we made the case that rural health care providers should receive toll-free internet access. Although we believe that this issue will gradually disappear as local access to the internet continues to expand, it is still a problem in many remote areas of this country. Many residents in rural areas must pay a premium for accessing the internet through either paying long-distance toll charges or paying a premium for accessing a toll-free 800 number.

Today, access to the internet is becoming an integral part of providing quality health care. Information provided through the National Library of Medicine and other parts of the National Institutes of Health is available via the internet and provides the latest in clinical procedures, drug interactions and new medical techniques. For public health purposes, it is critical that health care workers have instant access to databases related to disease and other emerging public health concerns.

Internet access also enables physicians to share a patient's medical information and images with consulting physicians located in other areas. The lack of existing access to consulting colleagues contributes to professional isolation by rural health care workers. This professional isolation also is a key factor in both the recruitment and retention of health care workers for isolated areas.

All of the benefits of the information age will be unavailable to many rural health providers if they are required to pay higher fees for simply accessing the internet. Rural health providers have considerably fewer resources available to pay these additional fees. This creates still another barrier to quality health care for all Americans and is contrary to long-established national policy to improve medical services in remote and underserved areas.

We suggest that the Commission establish a mechanism whereby eligible rural health providers would be provided a credit through their local telephone service provider for accessing the internet. The amount of the credit would be capped, based on a formula using a predetermined number of hours of internet access (we would suggest approximately 30 hours per month) and the prevailing cost of accessing a toll-free phone service providing internet access. The recipient of the credit (a rural health provider)

would have the option of applying this credit to pay for regular dial-up access to an internet provider or establishing a direct link. Furthermore, the method of connection, via telephone line, wireless or other mechanism should be the choice of the consumer - the rural health provider. Of course, eligibility should be based on the lack of a local "Point Of Presence" for an internet service provider.

Eligible Institutions

The Act defines the term health care provider but there is some remaining uncertainty about extending benefits of this section to urban health care providers serving persons who reside in rural areas of a State. We urge the Commission to enable urban providers to benefit from the provisions established by the Commission for services they provide directly to rural areas. For example, if an urban-based health center establishes a telemedical link to a rural health institution then the telecommunications costs for such services should be considered covered under the forthcoming Report and Order.

In conclusion, we commend you, the other members of the Commission and the Commission staff for the genuine concern, commitment and professionalism that have been demonstrated in responding to the provisions in the Act related to health care communications. I and the other members of ATA look forward to a positive outcome of these proceedings.

Sincerely,



Jay H. Sanders, M.D.
President

cc: Commissioner Rochelle Chong
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner James Quello
William F. Caton, Secretary to the Commission



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

APR 28 1997

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MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45, Rural Health Care

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On October 10, 1996, the Secretaries of Education, Commerce, and Agriculture wrote you supporting a strong application of the mandate set forth in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with respect to providing discounts for all schools (K-12) and libraries in the country. On November 7, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service that you have chaired issued a robust recommendation on this issue, and we the undersigned urge you to continue supporting the import and magnitude of that recommendation. We now seek to provide input to you on another crucial issue relating to universal service, namely, that of telehealth.

In our capacities as Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and Health and Human Services, we strongly support the national goal of assuring that all Americans -- regardless of their geographic location -- have access to the advanced telecommunications necessary for the provision of essential health care services. We are deeply concerned that those living in rural communities will be left behind because the enabling electronic access for telehealth is unavailable or unaffordable.

As you know, in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress mandated the FCC to bring down the cost of rural telehealth services. The Act requires that telecommunications rates for public and non-profit rural health care providers, including local health departments or agencies, be comparable to rates charged to urban providers. We heartily endorse a meaningful and timely implementation of that provision.

There has been some recent discussion about the treatment of distance charges and access to the Internet in the realm of telehealth applications. We would like to provide our views on these issues.

First, the widespread existence of distance charges places rural health care providers at a decided disadvantage relative to their urban counterparts. Many less urbanized areas are characterized by long "local loops" or substantial circuit mileage between central offices. In studies performed by the USDA's Rural Utilities Service and the unaffiliated National Exchange Carrier Association, the average yearly rural circuit cost for 1.544 Mbps (e.g., T-1 or DS1) capability was at least triple that in urban locales. HHS's Office of Rural Health Policy has found even larger differentials: its telemedicine grantee in Billings, Montana, paid \$216 per month for a T-1 line in 1996 within the city as compared to \$922 per month for T-1 service to Sidney, Montana, 121 miles away -- a ratio of 1 to 4.3. We believe the distance-sensitive elements should be eliminated in order to meet the "reasonably comparable" standard set forth in Section 254(h)(1) of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

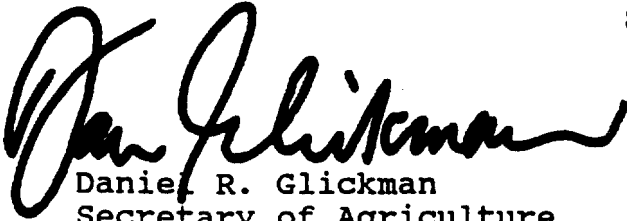
Second, the same kind of payment inequities exist with respect to Internet access. Many recognize the tremendous potential benefits that can be obtained by those who have access to the Internet. In its proposed implementation of the Act's universal service provisions, the Joint Board recommended that both schools and libraries receive special discounts with respect to Internet access. Concerning applications to telehealth, the Joint Board pointed out the Internet's many potential uses in retrieving important and relevant data and health information, such as the government's new website (www.healthfinder.gov). It is also an alternative means of conferencing. Notably, unequal access currently exists based on location: urban health care providers typically do not have to pay long distance rates or per-minute charges to connect to Internet Service Providers (ISPs), while rural users frequently do. Moreover, NTIA's informal survey of Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIIAP) grantees that have rural telemedicine networks found that those who did not have to pay a long distance toll charge to an ISP were more likely to have Internet access. For all of these reasons, eligible rural health care providers should be exempted from these long distance and per-minute charges.

It is not hyperbole to view the Commission's mandate as one of landmark importance, and we are impressed with the earnest hard work of the Joint Board and the Commission thus far in this proceeding. We also note with appreciation the work of the FCC's Advisory Committee on Telecommunications and Health Care with

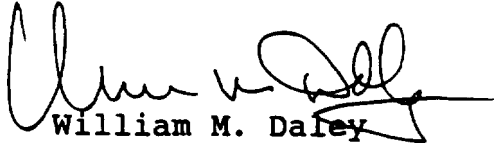
Page 3 - The Honorable Reed E. Hundt

respect to telehealth issues. As the Commission completes its deliberations on these matters, we urge you and your fellow Commissioners to adopt our recommendations as consistent with the Act and the public interest.

Sincerely,



Daniel R. Glickman
Secretary of Agriculture



William M. Daley
Secretary of Commerce



Donna E. Shalala
Secretary of Health
and Human Services

cc: Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner James H. Quello

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James M.S. Franklin

Life and Health Insurance
Business and Employee Benefit Programs
Executive Compensation Plans
Personal Financial Analysis

William D. Franklin, CFP
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Henry C.B. Franklin

April 21, 1997

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Ms. Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket Number 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

My name is David Morris and I am writing as a Trustee of Roland Park Country School in Baltimore, Maryland. I would like to thank you for your commitment in assuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the growing information "super highway" of the Internet.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorer schools will have opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide long distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion per year will address the needs of our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where the students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of the Internet service provider cost. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow and it is consistent with our need to invest in our young people as a country and society.

At Roland Park Country School, using the Internet is integrated in all aspects of the school's curriculum from elementary to high school. This tool enables our students--located in the city of Baltimore--to use the Internet to do research on cutting edge developments from genetics for science papers to museums of Paris for history papers. They can share their opinions on current events with the White House and share their daily experiences with students across the world. This invaluable tool is expanded and enhances the student learning experiences and

Associated Companies

Franklin/Morris Consulting Services, Inc. • Mason and Carter, Inc. • University Insurance Associates

Ms. Susan Ness, Commissioner

Page 2

April 21, 1997

enables them to obtain firsthand exposure to the global community. Our students do need the deep discount for telecommunication services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Boards discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



David M. Morris, JD, CLU

DMM/rc



HEART OF GEORGIA REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

P.O. BOX 368 · 101 HARRELL AVENUE · EASTMAN, GA 31023 · (912) 374-2240 · FAX: (912) 374-1524

JUNE D. BRADFELD, Ed.S., Executive Director

April 24, 1997

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MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am Executive Director for the Heart of Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) which includes the following counties in Georgia: Bleckley, Dodge, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Treutlen, Wheeler, and Wilcox. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. We desperately need it.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow. I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I sent to the Georgia Public Service Commissioner that will explain our area and concerns.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "June D. Bradfield".

June D. Bradfield

JDB:sc

Enclosure



HEART OF GEORGIA REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

P.O. BOX 368 · 101 HARRELL AVENUE · EASTMAN, GA 31023 · (912) 374-2240 · FAX: (912) 374-1524

JUNE D. BRADFELD, Ed.S., Executive Director

April 9, 1997

Mr. Timothy S. Hopkins
Director, Utility Finance
Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

Dear Mr. Hopkins and Public Service Commissioners:

Ever since hearing in December of 1996 about the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and its implications for schools and libraries, we at the Heart of Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency have been excited about its implications for our school systems in south Georgia. With a unanimous vote, the Heart of Georgia RESA Board of Control composed of the ten school system superintendents and five lay persons gave me as director the directive to pursue this matter as the official representative of a consortium comprised of all ten school systems. Therefore, I appreciate the opportunity to give comments.

Our RESA area would most certainly be qualified to be recipients of discounts that are based on the criteria of student eligibility for free or reduced price lunches and a rural geographic location. The Telecommunications Act can play an instrumental role in leveling the playing field when the inequalities of educational opportunities are addressed. Although many schools in Georgia have ready access for all or the majority of their students, it is the rule for our systems to have no access for anyone. A few of the systems have access for one station in the media center.

Below is the response to your questionnaire.

List all telecommunications services currently being received and the tariff if you know the title (include the name of the provider).

Internet access is available in Dodge, Telfair, Bleckley, Pulaski, and Wilcox counties through a grant through the Ocmulgee Regional Library. Other systems have no access without long distance charges. One system has access through a private company. Access is usually limited to the media center in the schools. With so many wishing to use the service, however, the free line is most often busy and thus inaccessible. MCI recently

offered a pay line that is available in some areas. RESA employees, for instance, pay personally for this expense; however, not all of our employees live in areas where there is access without paying a long distance fee. Ocmulgee Regional Library has been most helpful in providing services in our area.

List any telecommunications services for which you are currently receiving a discount and the provider rendering that service.

The state of Georgia has provided GSAMS equipment installation and first year operational fees for Bleckley, Dodge, Dublin, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Treutlen, Wheeler, and Wilcox school systems. Costs after the first year run \$1200 per month per site. Our systems often cannot afford this expense and have let their GSAMS system lie idle even though their students could benefit from the opportunities available through distance learning. Low student numbers for advanced classes and the lack of experiential activities created by a rural environment create a need for this type of technology.

List any services you recommend for discount (include a brief description of the service).

GSAMS--This two-way interactive technology for distance learning would provide educational experiences for students in our service area as well as make staff development for teachers and administrators accessible without necessitating travel expenditures of time and money. Installation equipment has been provided by the state; however, the yearly operation fees are extremely high.

Internet access--our rural students are just as deserving of having the information age accessible at the tip of their fingers as their urban counterparts. When the Georgia School Superintendents' list is pulled up on the Internet, only two of our superintendents have an e-mail address. Although education is big business, the administrators down to the students being trained to be tomorrow's leaders are all at a turn-of-the-twentieth-century status instead of being visionaries for the twenty-first century.

Fiber optics solutions are needed for networking class to class, class to media center, class to school office, school office to central office, all to the local library, all to the regional educational service agency. Computers have been purchased through lottery proceeds, yet there is little if any connectivity. No school in our service area has fiber optic connections to the work stations. There are scattered 10-base t solutions and several thin Ethernet solutions.

We would also like to have accessible any other technology that would give our students the opportunities available throughout the United States to make them productive world class citizens.

Provide the expected volumes and frequency of both any discounted services and/or any recommended discounted services from above.

Untapped are 23,000 students in 48 schools of 10 school systems. This wealth of potential is just the tip of the iceberg. For as students become successful users of the technology available on today's market, their productivity will influence their parents and families to also become consumers of technological services. The market potential for service providers to recoup their expenses has yet to be tapped. The "perceived necessity" for the public to have access is just beginning to emerge.

State your current local service provider for telecommunications services.

The providers in our area include Alltel, Bell South, Glenwood Telephone, ComSouth, and Plant Telephone.

State your current provider for toll services.

ATT, MCI, Sprint, CTI, Alltel, Glenwood Telephone--all are available with equal access.

State your provider for any other telecommunications services currently being received.

ATT, Bradmark, CTI, MCI, or any other company that is requested.

Any other comments or issues you care to raise on this subject.

We are also concerned about the interstate as well as the intrastate aspects of this program. We in rural south Georgia do not have access to the larger providers that serve interstate. Neither do we receive the cooperation or financial aid that is provided by these larger service providers. For example, Alltel told one of our systems to "take what they (Alltel) already had or nothing" and refused to work with them on a grant. Yet note the extensive discounts and other services provided by Pacific Bell in California. (See attached e-mail from Oscar Perry.)

RESA has a responsibility to provide technological training for the staff of our school systems; however, this is an impossibility when there is not adequate access for training purposes, and even if there were, there is usually no place in the local school setting to enable the training to be utilized to its fullest.

Any input you would like to make relative to procedures for the implementation of making application or for the provision of these discounts.

All that we have been able to discover about the procedures indicate that the awarding of funds will be on a first-come first-serve basis. It behooves the Georgia Public Service Commission to have the way open for all those students in Georgia, no matter where they

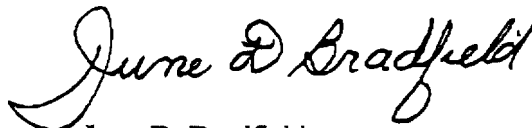
live or their economic status, to have equal educational opportunities with the rest of the nation. Although the concerns of the Public Service Commission are many, this matter needs to take top priority so that applications from Georgia can be submitted as early as those from any other state.

The guidelines need to be written in terms that are understandable by lay persons, since those systems making applications are the ones most deserving of the funding yet the most lacking in technical knowledge and expertise. They often do not know what they need to ask for.

As soon as guidelines become available, they should be sent to every school system, regional educational service agency, and library in the state. Since the FCC decision is scheduled for May 8 with funding to commence in September, immediate notification is necessary. Again small rural school systems are at a disadvantage since most have few twelve-month employees to work on this project from June through mid-August.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to give comments. We will continue to carry out the directive from our board of control to stay aware of the status of this program and to make application at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "June D. Bradfield". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

June D. Bradfield
Executive Director

INDIAN HEAD, MARYLAND 20640

TELEPHONE:

(301) 743-5422/23

LOCAL

(301) 753-1786

METRO

(301) 753-8421

FAX

CC 96-45

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: NAME Hrs. Reed E. Humdt

COMPANY FCC

TELEPHONE: _____

FASIMILE 202-418-2801

FROM: NAME Staff

COMPANY Gen. Smallwood Mid Sch.

TELEPHONE #301 753-1786 OR 301 743-5422/23

FACSIMILE #301 753-8421

DATE 4/24/97

COVER PLUS 1 PAGE(S) FOLLOWING

MESSAGE Re: Universal Service

Discounts

4990 INDIAN HEAD HIGHWAY
INDIAN HEAD, MARYLAND 20640

L. Smiley J. Stone Sincerely, L. D. Allen m w
 J. C. Breckinridge A. H. Ward Julia J. H. H. L. P.
 M. Compas B. G. Coleman J. R. Sturges C. Wilson
 D. Gifford R. H. V. B. G. Gallup P. G. G.
 L. H. Hancock S. A. K. J. H. H.
 L. H. Stepanowicz M. A. G. L. H. H.
 "Educating Today's Youth for Tomorrow's World"

FAX

Date 04/29/97

Number of pages including cover sheet 2

TO: Dan Gonzales, Staff

Phone

Fax Phone 202-418-2820

FROM: Nancy A. Cobble, RN, MA
ncobble@mt.net
SouthWest Montana
Telepsychiatry Network

Phone 406-447-2800

Fax Phone 406-444-2151

REMARKS: ☐ Urgent ☐ For your review ☐ Reply ASAP ☐ Please Comment